

Bi!?

Logline:

During lockdown, Catherine Nakato finds out that her twin sister Christine Babirye is lesbian and she is taken aback. It is only after Christine disappears on her after curfew that she realizes that she has been treating marginalizing her sister in their own home.

Synopsis:

Catherine Nakato 27, has found out that her twin sister is a lesbian after going through her phone texts and she is worried that she will turn out the same way. She knows how homosexuals are treated in Uganda and she is afraid. She is more afraid for herself than examining how her sister is feeling. Thing is that they are locked up together and have to share everything and every space. There is no avoiding each other, this is something that they have to deal with.

Nakato starts to treat her sister like a leper and tries to avoid her. Christine Babirye catches on and wants to clear the air. She is upset by her sister's actions and she disappears in the dead of the night in the middle of lockdown after curfew time. She just wants to get away and clear her head. This does the trick.

Catherine is worried. She has never been away from her sister and now she has literally driven her away. She calls around frantically but no one has heard from Babirye. After she talks with her Auntie who talks some sense into her does she realize that she has been treating her sister the way the world treats her. Shunning her for who she is. She is worried about her sister and her wellbeing in the middle of the pandemic that has locked down the whole world.

She needs to find a way to get her sister back no matter what. Only then can they move forward as a unit like they always have been.

Genre: Drama

Duration: 10 Minutes

Bi!? Treatment

The film starts with a pan of pictures of the twins together and happy doing different activities. They are so alike it is impossible to tell them apart. They are one unit and seem inseparable.

They are folding laundry together chatting happily. They have just gotten news that lockdown has been extended and the pandemic is getting worse around the world. For now they are happy that they have each other.

Christine picks up her phone to read a text. She leaves the room for a while and her Catherine picks the phone and is alarmed by the message.

The following day; In the kitchen, the twins discuss lockdown. They have been locked up for three weeks and there has been an extension. Catherine is exhausted. Christine says that she is enjoying the lockdown but she missed her friends. Catherine is making breakfast and she separates the two plates. Christine notices that one is marked underneath. She asks why? Catherine will not explain. Christine picks the unmarked plate and walks away.

In the living room as they eat breakfast, Catherine addresses Christine's sexuality, she is worried about her. Christine asks if that is the reason she separated and marked the plates.

Catherine is worried that she might also be homosexual. She does not want to be locked up with her sister. What if they are caught and punished? Christine points out that neither of them has anywhere to go, and no movement is allowed.

The twins are arguing. Catherine will not stay in the same room as Christine. Christine locks herself in her room. In the dead of the night she leaves. Catherine checks and finds that her sister is missing. Now she is worried. There is no night movement allowed. She has driven her out into the unknown.

Catherine has a frantic morning calling every one that she knows. She is in tears. Her Auntie asks her what happened. She reveals the cause of the argument. Her Auntie talks to her...they are sisters, she needs to support her sister.

Catherine is in tears, she is crying. She tries calling her sister. The phone is ringing but there is no answer.

Christine is in the garage in their car. She is also crying her eyes out. She sees missed calls from her sister. She does not answer. She reads a text message. "I am sorry, please come back home. I was wrong. I love you no matter what".

Catherine falls asleep in Christine's room on her sister's bed. Christine comes into the room in the dead of the night and lies by her sister.

She wakes up to breakfast in bed. Catherine has made her breakfast and there is a note. She is apologizing. Christine lifts the plate to see if there is a mark. There is none, she smiles.

They talk. Christine feels so alone every single day knowing the rules against homosexuality in their country, she feels locked up even when there is no lockdown. She can never be herself. She at least hoped that she could be herself around her sister.

Catherine says she understands. They cannot turn against each other. They are locked up together. They are so alike and just the fact that they love differently should not make a difference. They have to make it work.

Bi!?

By

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1 INT. TWINS LIVING ROOM. DAY 1

There are pictures of the twins all over the room. They look happy together.

2 INT. BEDROOM. DAY 2

Nakato 25, and Babirye 25, are folding clothes and chatting happily.

Babirye receives a text, reads it and giggles.

NAKATO

What?

BABIRYE

Nothing.

There is an uncomfortable silence.

BABIRYE CONTD

Meanwhile this lock down extension is getting on my last nerve.

NAKATO

At least we have each other. Imagine people who live by themselves.

BABIRYE

I miss our friends.

NAKATO

What friends?

BABIRYE

I have new friends...

NAKATO

Yeah? Like the one who just texted you?

Babirye looks at her, smiles and says nothing. She looks at her watch.

BABIRYE

Time for news. You coming?

NAKATO

No, let me finish up here. You go...

There is an announcement on the television in the living room. Babirye runs off to see. Nakato remains to put away the clothes.

Nakato picks up Babirye's phone and reads the message. She is shocked and she drops the phone.

3

INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. EARLY MORNING

3

CATHERINE NAKATO 25, is in the kitchen preparing breakfast. She sets two plates and puts eggs on both. She looks unhappy.

Her twin sister CHRISTINE BABIRYE 25, walks in yawning and heads to grab a plate. She sees red nail polish on the counter. She hesitates then takes a plate.

NAKATO

No. Take the other one.

BABIRYE

Why?

NAKATO

I made you special eggs. This one is mine.

BABIRYE

They look exactly the same.

NAKATO

Just take the other plate, Babirye.

She takes the plate Nakato told her not to have.

Nakato sighs.

Babirye looks under the plate. Nakato has marked it with red nail polish.

BABIRYE

Why did you mark the plate?

NAKATO

I told you, it is mine.

Babirye sets the plate down back on the counter slowly and turns to Nakato.

Nakato cannot face her.

BABIRYE

Is something happening that you are not telling me?

She lifts the cups and sees that one has been marked as well.

(CONTINUED)

NAKATO

No. Other than the lockdown extension, nothing. Why?

BABIRYE

Why? Cups and plates have never been marked in our house. We have always used the same things.

NAKATO

I just think we should have separate things now that we are both grown.

Babirye reaches out to touch Nakato.

Nakato cringes.

BABIRYE

Both grown? We literally had supper together yesterday on unmarked plates. So we grew over night? What on earth is wrong with you?

NAKATO

Nothing. Just eat your breakfast.

4 INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. MORNING

4

A very organised pink and purple decorated room. The twins settle to eat their breakfast in the sofa as they watch TV.

Nakato keeps stealing glances at her sister and fidgeting in her seat.

Babirye is enjoying the show on the TV and does not notice her sister is staring at her.

Nakato picks the remote and reduces the volume of the television.

Babirye looks at her confused.

NAKATO

Babirye I saw the text message from Jacinta. What is that all about?

Babirye averts her eyes.

BABIRYE

What were you doing checking my texts?

(CONTINUED)

Babiryye gets up and walks to the kitchen.

Nakato follows her.

5 INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY

5

Babirye walks straight to the kettle and turns it on then stands facing the wall.

Nakato stands next to her and fidgets on her feet.

BABIRYE

Nakato, I like women. Jacinta and I are dating.

Nakato stands up straight.

NAKATO

Since when? What do you mean dating?

BABIRYE

You know...dating. We are seeing each other.

NAKATO

What about Frank? You have a boyfriend.

BABIRYE

I like Frank.

NAKATO

But you just said that you are dating Jacinta? How does that work?

BABIRYE

I am bisexual!

NAKATO

That is not a real thing.

Nakato walks out of the kitchen.

Babirye makes two cups of tea and follows Nakato back to the living room.

6 INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. DAY

6

Nakato is back on the sofa and she is watching the television with no volume.

Babirye walks in with two cups of tea and hands one to Nakato. Nakato takes it and sets it down on the small coffee table.

(CONTINUED)

NAKATO

You cannot be bisexual.

BABIRYE

I am actually a lesbian. Being bisexual is just to stay safe.

NAKATO

What does that make me? If you are homosexual, does that mean I am too?

BABIRYE

It is not a disease, Nakato. It is not like you will catch it because I am.

Nakato takes a sip from her cup.

Babirye reaches out to touch her.

Nakato cringes.

Babirye is taken aback. She sets her cup on the table and walks out of the room.

Nakato shakes her head. She is upset. She cannot drink her tea anymore. She sets her cup on the table and turns up the television volume.

Babirye walks back into the room fully dressed to go out. She prepares to leave the house. She turns to look at Nakato.

Nakato will not look at her direction.

Babirye leaves the house closing the door slowly behind her.

7

INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

7

Nakato is pacing up and down the living room. She glances up at the clock from time to time. It is past midnight.

There is no sign of Babirye. Nakato is worried. She is calling around frantically. No one has heard from Babirye.

Nakato is beside herself, she is in tears.

8 INT. GARAGE. CAR. NIGHT 8

Babirye is curled up in the back seat of their car and is in tears.

9 INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 9

Nakato is on the phone with their Auntie.

NAKATO

I am so sorry. I treated her like she was a leper.

AUNTIE

She is your sister, Nakato. Just because she likes boys or girls does not change that fact

NAKATO

I know. I was just scared.

AUNTIE

It is the middle of the night and we are in lock down. Where could she have gone?

NAKATO

(Bursts into fresh tears)
I do not know.

AUNTIE

Okay calm down, I will make some calls. Just be there for her when she comes back home, she will be just as scared as you are.

10 INT. TWINS HOUSE. BABIRYE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 10

Nakato enters Babirye's room and falls on her sister's bed in tears and falls asleep.

In the middle of the night, Babirye comes into the room and sees her sister. She lies next to her and falls asleep.

The next morning...

Babirye wakes up to breakfast in bed by her sister.

Nakato is silent and just stands over her.

BABIRYE

Did you shower?

(CONTINUED)

NAKATO

Of course I showered, why do you ask?

BABIRYE

Just wondering if you managed to wash off the homosexual in me off of you.

NAKATO

Do not be silly.

BABIRYE

I am not the one who cringes each time she is touched.

NAKATO

I did not know what to think.

BABIRYE

What is there to think about? I have sex with women. Why does it bother you so much?

Both girls are silent just staring at each other.

Babirye starts to eat slowly.

Nakato hesitates and then sits down next to her.

BABIRYE CONTD

Nakato, you are an educated woman, how can you react like this?

NAKATO

It is not right, that thing you are doing.

BABIRYE

Separating plates and cups? Is that right? Really Nakato, you are behaving like I have a contagious disease. I am your twin sister.

NAKATO

That is why I am worried.

BABIRYE

You sound like all those people out there who think that being around a homosexual is somehow a problem.

NAKATO
It is not normal.

BABIRYE
Tell me then, what is normal?

Nakato will not answer. She is uncomfortable.

NAKATO
Where did you go, you had me
worried?

BABIRYE
I thought you would be happy that
I would be caught by the police
and beaten for being out past
curfew.

NAKATO
Why would you think that?

BABIRYE
You are the one separating plates
and cups, perhaps you want me
punished like the law says!

They sit in silence

11 INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY

11

Babirye is washing utensils in the sink.

Nakato walks in and stands beside her.

NAKATO
I am sorry.

BABIRYE
I do not care if everyone in this
country hates who I am, but you,
Nakato, you are my sister.

NAKATO
I know, I am sorry.

BABIRYE
Do you have any idea living in
fear of being yourself?

NAKATO
No.

BABIRYE
It feels like I am in lock down
every single day of my life.

12 INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 12

Nakato has her legs folded on the sofa and she is staring at the television that is off. She has a cup of tea in her hands. She has been crying.

13 INT. TWINS HOUSE. BABIRYE'S BEDROOM. NIGHT 13

Babirye is curled up on her bed. She has been crying.

14 INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. EARLY MORNING 14

The next morning, Babirye is making breakfast.

Nakato walks in and is surprised.

NAKATO

Are you okay?

BABIRYE

Yes. You?

NAKATO

Listen Babirye...

BABIRYE

...use the marked plate and cup.

She picks her plate and cup and walks out of the room.

NAKATO

Babirye...

Nakato picks her plate and cup and follows Babirye.

15 INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. MORNING 15

Babirye sits in front of the television and turns it on.

Nakato walks in slowly and sits by her side. She sets her plate and cup on the table.

NAKATO

I am so sorry. I am sorry I made
you feel worse than you already
feel.

Babirye says nothing and eats her eggs eyes glued on the television.

Nakato turns the television off.

(CONTINUED)

BABIRYE

You of all people, Nakato. My twin sister. I expected you to stand by me when the time came.

NAKATO

I did not know how to react.

BABIRYE

There is nothing to react to. Can't you see that? What happens in the privacy of my bedroom should not change the way we feel about each other.

NAKATO

It is just strange.

BABIRYE

Strange? Nakato you really should stop talking.

NAKATO

What I am trying to say is I do not understand...help me understand.

BABIRYE

...there is nothing to understand. That is what I am trying to say. This is who I am. If you want to move out if this lock down ever ends, I will understand.

Babirye takes the remote and turns the television back on. She picks her plate and continues to eat.

Nakato picks up her plate and starts to eat.

They eat in silence, just the sound of the television on.

Bi!?! The Play

By

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The stage is divided into four parts.

Downstairs has the living room and the kitchen demarcated and the upstairs has the two bedrooms for each of the twins side by side.

The twins bedrooms are similar in color scheme, arrangement, very identical.

1 INT. TWINS LIVING ROOM. DAY 1

In a very neat living room there are pictures of the twins all over the room. They look happy together.

2 INT. BEDROOM. DAY 2

Upstairs in one of the bedrooms, Nakato 25, and Babirye 25, are folding clothes and chatting happily.

NAKATO

I cannot believe that lockdown has been extended.

BABIRYE

Just be happy that we are locked up together. Imagine people who are alone by themselves.

NAKATO

(Playfully)

I wish...

BABIRYE

(Light laugh)

...hey.

Babirye receives a text, reads it and giggles then sets her phone back on the side board.

Nakato looks at her questioningly but Babirye shrugs her shoulders. It is nothing to worry about.

There is an announcement on the television downstairs in the living room. Babirye runs off to see. Nakato remains to put away the clothes.

Nakato picks up Babirye's phone and reads the message. She is shocked and she drops the phone.

3 MORNING INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. EARLY 3

CATHERINE NAKATO 25, is in the kitchen preparing breakfast. She sets two plates and puts eggs on both. She looks unhappy.

(CONTINUED)

Her twin sister CHRISTINE BABIRYE 25, walks in yawning and heads to grab a plate. She sees red nail polish on the counter. She hesitates then takes a plate.

NAKATO

No. Take the other one.

BABIRYE

Why?

NAKATO

I made you special eggs. This one is mine.

BABIRYE

They look exactly the same.

NAKATO

Just take the other plate, Babirye.

She takes the plate Nakato told her not to have.

Nakato sighs.

Babirye looks under the plate. Nakato has marked it with red nail polish.

BABIRYE

Why did you mark the plate?

NAKATO

I told you, it is mine.

Babirye sets the plate down back on the counter slowly and turns to Nakato.

Nakato cannot face her.

BABIRYE

Is something happening that you are not telling me?

She lifts the cups and sees that one has been marked as well.

NAKATO

No. Other than the lock down extension, nothing. Why?

BABIRYE

Why? Cups and plates have never been marked in our house. We have always used the same things.

NAKATO

I just think we should have separate things now that we are both grown.

Babirye reaches out to touch Nakato.

Nakato cringes.

BABIRYE

Both grown? We literally had supper together yesterday on unmarked plates. So we grew up overnight? What on earth is wrong with you?

NAKATO

Nothing. Just eat your breakfast.

4

INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM.

MORNING

4

A very organised pink and purple decorated room. The twins settle to eat their breakfast in the sofa as they watch TV.

Nakato keeps stealing glances at her sister and fidgeting in her seat.

Babirye is enjoying the show on the TV and does not notice her sister is staring at her.

Nakato picks the remote and reduces the volume of the television.

Babirye looks at her confused.

NAKATO

Babirye I saw the text message from Jacinta. What is that all about?

Babirye averts her eyes.

BABIRYE

What were you doing checking my texts? What were you doing going through my phone?

Babirye gets up and walks to the kitchen.

Nakato follows her.

5

INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. DAY 5

Babirye walks straight to the kettle and turns it on then stands facing the wall.

Nakato stands next to her and fidgets on her feet.

BABIRYE

Nakato, I like women. Jacinta and I are dating.

Nakato stands up straight.

NAKATO

Since when? What do you mean dating?

BABIRYE

You know...dating. We are seeing each other.

NAKATO

What about Frank? You have a boyfriend.

BABIRYE

I like Frank.

NAKATO

But you just said that you are dating Jacinta? How does that work?

BABIRYE

I am bisexual!

NAKATO

That is not a real thing.

Nakato walks out of the kitchen.

Babirye makes two cups of tea and follows Nakato back to the living room.

6

INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM.

DAY

6

Nakato is back on the sofa and she is watching the television with no volume.

Babirye walks in with two cups of tea and hands one to Nakato. Nakato takes it and sets it down on the small coffee table.

NAKATO

You cannot be bisexual.

BABIRYE

I am actually a lesbian. Being bisexual is just to stay safe in this stupid country!

NAKATO

What does that make me? If you are homosexual, does that mean I am too?

BABIRYE

It is not a disease, Nakato. It is not like you will catch it because I am.

Nakato takes a sip from her cup.

Babirye reaches out to touch her.

Nakato cringes.

(CONTINUED)

Babirye is taken aback. She sets her cup on the table and walks out of the room.

Nakato shakes her head. She is upset. She cannot drink her tea anymore. She sets her cup on the table and turns up the television volume.

Babirye walks back into the room fully dressed to go out. She prepares to leave the house. She turns to look at Nakato.

Nakato will not look at her direction.

Babirye leaves the house closing the door slowly behind her.

7

NIGHTINT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM.

7

Nakato is pacing up and down the living room. She glances up at the clock from time to time. It is past midnight.

There is no sign of Babirye. Nakato is worried. She is calling around frantically. No one has heard from Babirye.

Nakato is beside herself, she is in tears.

8

NIGHTINT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM.

8

Nakato is on the phone with their Auntie.

NAKATO

I am so sorry. I treated her like she was a leper.

AUNTIE

She is your sister, Nakato. Just because she likes boys or girls does not change that fact

NAKATO

I know. I was just scared.

AUNTIE

It is the middle of the night and we are in lock down. Where could she have gone?

NAKATO

(Bursts into fresh tears)

I do not know.

AUNTIE

Okay calm down, I will make some calls. Just be there for her when she comes back home, she will be just as scared as you are.

Nakato enters Babirye's room and falls on her sister's bed in tears and falls asleep.

In the middle of the night, Babirye comes into the room and sees her sister. She lies next to her and falls asleep.

The next morning...

Babirye wakes up to breakfast in bed by her sister.

Nakato is silent and just stands over her.

BABIRYE

Did you shower?

NAKATO

Of course I showered, why do you ask?

BABIRYE

Just wondering if you managed to wash off the homosexual in me off of you.

NAKATO

Do not be silly.

BABIRYE

I am not the one who cringes each time she is touched.

NAKATO

I did not know what to think.

BABIRYE

What is there to think about? I have sex with women. Why does it bother you so much?

Both girls are silent just staring at each other.

Babirye starts to eat slowly.

Nakato hesitates and then sits down next to her.

BABIRYE CONTD

Nakato, you are an educated woman, how can you react like this?

NAKATO

It is not right, that thing you are doing.

BABIRYE

Separating plates and cups? Is that right? Really Nakato, you are behaving like I have a contagious disease. I am your twin sister.

NAKATO

That is why I am worried.

BABIRYE

You sound like all those people out there who think that being around a homosexual is somehow a problem.

NAKATO

It is not normal.

BABIRYE

Tell me then, what is normal?

Nakato will not answer. She is uncomfortable.

NAKATO

Where did you go, you had me worried?

BABIRYE

I thought you would be happy that I would be caught by the police and beaten for being out past curfew.

NAKATO

Why would you think that?

BABIRYE

You are the one separating plates and cups, perhaps you want me punished like the law says!

They sit in silence

10

int. twins house. kitchen. day 10

Babirye is washing utensils in the sink.

Nakato walks in and stands beside her.

NAKATO

I am sorry.

BABIRYE

I do not care if everyone in this country hates who I am, but you, Nakato, you are my sister.

NAKATO

I know, I am sorry.

BABIRYE

Do you have any idea living in fear of being yourself?

(CONTINUED)

NAKATO
No.

BABIRYE
It feels like I am in lock down every single day of
my life.

11 NIGHT INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. 11

*Nakato has her legs folded on the sofa and she
is staring at the television that is off. She
has a cup of tea in her hands. She is crying.*

12 BEDROOM. night INT. TWINS HOUSE. BABIRYE'S 12

Babirye is curled up on her bed. She is crying.

13 MORNING INT. TWINS HOUSE. KITCHEN. EARLY 13

The next morning, Babirye is making breakfast.

Nakato walks in and is surprised.

NAKATO
Are you okay?

BABIRYE
Yes. You?

NAKATO
Listen Babirye...

BABIRYE
...use the marked plate and cup.

*She picks her plate and cup and walks out of the
room.*

NAKATO
Babirye...

*Nakato picks her plate and cup and follows
Babirye.*

14 morning INT. TWINS HOUSE. LIVING ROOM. 14

*Babirye sits in front of the television and
turns it on.*

*Nakato walks in slowly and sits by her side. She
sets her plate and cup on the table.*

NAKATO

I am so sorry. I am sorry I made you feel worse than you already feel.

Babirye says nothing and eats her eggs eyes glued on the television.

Nakato turns the television off.

BABIRYE

You of all people, Nakato. My twin sister. I expected you to stand by me when the time came.

NAKATO

I did not know how to react.

BABIRYE

There is nothing to react to. Can't you see that? What happens in the privacy of my bedroom should not change the way we feel about each other.

NAKATO

It is just strange.

BABIRYE

Strange? Nakato you really should stop talking.

NAKATO

What I am trying to say is I do not understand...help me understand.

BABIRYE

...there is nothing to understand. That is what I am trying to say. This is who I am. If you want to move out if this lock down ever ends, I will understand.

Babirye takes the remote and turns the television back on. She picks her plate and continues to eat.

Nakato picks up her plate and starts to eat.

They eat in silence, just the sound of the television on.